

The complicated realities of COVID-tide in 2020

Rather than preparing for a joyous Christmastide, believers are making tough decisions about how to celebrate during a season some call COVID-tide.

Terry Mattingly

 What about that beloved Christmas cantata or children's pageant? Government regulations about singing vary nationwide.

All those parties and dinners on the December calendar? Church officials may shut them down – or, perhaps, look the other way.

The most emotional question: What about Christmas Eve, with glowing sanctuaries full of families gathered from near and afar, dressed in festive holiday attire? In most churches, some members will be allowed inside, while others stay home – as during 2020's Holy Week and Easter – holding candles while facing computer screens.

No one knows what will happen, especially in Protestant flocks where holiday traditions are more flexible and evolve from year to year.

Nevertheless, about 50 percent of American adults who typically go to church at Christmas hope to do so this year, according to a study by LifeWay Research in Nashville. In fact, another 15 percent of participants in the online survey said they were more likely to attend a service this year. However, 35 percent of typical churchgoers said they're more likely to stay home.

"About 50 percent of America (is) saying, 'We're going to do what we're going to do,'" said Tim McConnell, LifeWay's executive director. Since this survey was done

before the recent coronavirus spike, "that makes things even more unpredictable" than they were already.

The survey results seem deceptively ordinary, but tensions emerge in key details. The survey focused on believers and the unchurched, but included an oversample of self-identified evangelical Protestants.

"It's easy to look at these numbers and see that half the people say they will be having Christmas as usual. Then there's another group of people who say they plan to do even more," he said. "Then you look at the bigger picture, and there's that other third that's missing. That's probably the large group of Americans who are older and at higher risk. ..."

"That's some important people in our families and churches – like grandparents. That's some important people who are not going to be having a normal Christmas, whatever 'normal' means right now."

Here are some additional details from the survey, which was conducted in September:

In America as a whole, 93 percent of adults will celebrate Christmas in one form or other – a percentage that has changed little in LifeWay surveys for a decade. Catholics (98 percent) and Protestants (95 percent) are most likely to do so. However, 81 percent of believers in other faiths said they would celebrate the holiday in some way – along with 88 percent of the "religiously unaffiliated," or "nones."

Women are, as a rule, more active in religious life than men. Thus, the survey found that 94 percent of women said they planned to celebrate the holiday, as opposed to 91 percent of men. In what appears to be a nod to

COVID-19 risks, only 87 percent of Americans 65 or older said they would observe Christmas.

In light of travel restrictions and other risks, 35 percent of those surveyed said they expect to spend less time with family this Christmas. Nearly half (47 percent) indicated that their plans remain the same, while 13 percent said that they were planning to spend more time with family than usual. Once again, older Americans – 43 percent of those aged 50-64 and 38 percent of those 65 and up – expected to spend less time with family this year.

Evangelical Protestants were the most likely survey participants to say that they planned to "do even more" this Christmas – including traveling to visit family (18 percent), give more gifts (15 percent) and focus on spiritual "reflections" (39 percent).

McConnell noted that different groups of Americans – in churches and otherwise – tend to "check off the Christmas box" on their calendars in different ways.

In some regions, it may be possible to move some services and musical events outdoors. Others will focus on finding new ways to connect with people at home – like Harvest Church in Eugene, Oregon, which has prepared "Christmas Eve in a Box" kits with candles, ornaments, a Bible, hot cocoa and candy.

"Many churches have been especially innovative during this crisis," said McConnell. "I think we'll see more of that this Christmas ... even though many churches don't have a reputation for being innovative when it comes to technology."

Terry Mattingly leads GetReligion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

Lincolnville United Methodist Church makes plans for Christmas Eve

Twelve 15-minute services planned between 6 and 10:30 p.m. Thursday

STAFF REPORT

Christmas Eve services have been planned for Lincolnville United Methodist Church, according to Pastor John Cook.

The church will hold 12 Christmas Eve services between 6 and 10:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24 at 5848 E. 500 South.

Each service will be in 25 minutes segments, with start times set for:

- 6 p.m.
- 6:25 p.m.

- 6:50 p.m.
- 7:15 p.m.
- 7:40 p.m.
- 8:05 p.m.
- 8:30 p.m.
- 8:55 p.m.
- 9:20 p.m.
- 9:45 p.m.
- 10:10 p.m.
- 10:35 p.m.

Members, friends and visitors to the church may sign up for a time slot to come worship.

Each time slot would be limited to eight people; or one family group of any size, if the group is larger than eight.

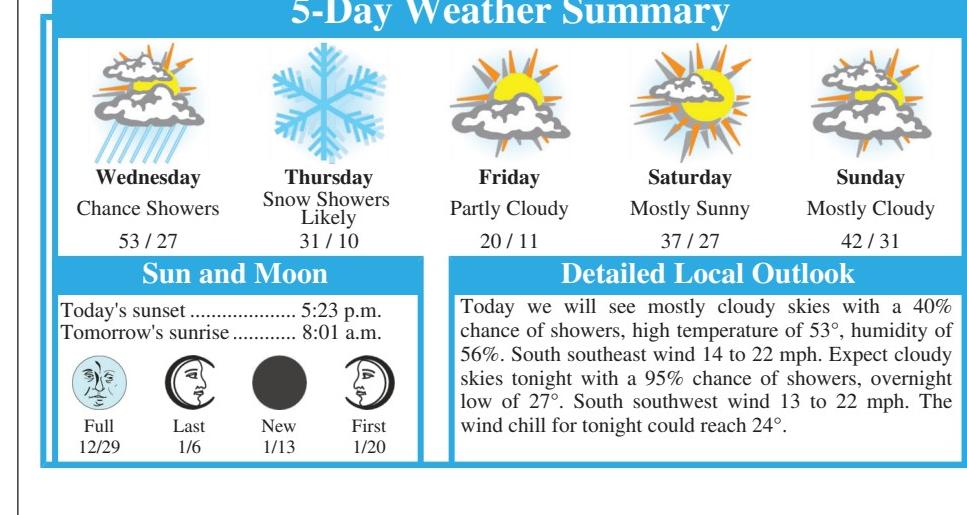
Visitors will sit socially distant in just one or two pews located near the back of the sanctuary. Everyone would be required to wear a mask. Masks will be provided for

those who do not have them or forget them.

Each service will be 15 minutes long, with five minutes to come in and sit down at the beginning and five minutes at the end to move the congregation out and sanitize the pew before the next group comes in.

The service will consist of an opening reading, music by video, a second reading, a six- to seven-minute Christmas Eve Message, closing video music and closing prayer. Each service will be the same.

To make reservations, call 260-569-0590 or 260-563-7788. You will receive a phone call the day before Christmas Eve verifying your reservation.



SHOOTING

From page A1

Huntington police officer, and the death of the adult male suspect."

ISP public information officer Brian Walker said Monday that "only the police officers fired shots during this incident," not the suspect.

"As the investigation progressed, it became clear that there was no exchange of gunfire but that the officers felt the suspect's conduct with the backhoe rendered him an imminent danger to both police officers and civilians," the ISP updated press release stated.

Huntington County Coroner Phil Zahm pronounced Matthew T. Melzoni, 36, dead at the scene.

The Huntington Police Department officer received a gunshot wound and suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries, according to ISP reports.

Police say they found Melzoni operating a piece of machinery "actively destroying property around the neighborhood" around 3:30 a.m. According to the initial report, the local police department and sheriff's department "became engaged in a lengthy pursuit of the suspect" around the area of Horace Mann Elementary and Riverside Middle School, "where he continued causing damage to private and public property."

No other officers or bystanders were injured during the course of the incident.

The unidentified officer was transported to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne following the incident and listed in serious but stable condition.

Huntington County Prosecutor Amy Richison has recused herself from the case. Whitley County Prosecutor D.J. Sigler is now the special prosecutor assigned to the case.

ISP said it will "not be releasing the identities of the officers involved in this incident until" prosecutors review the case and make a determination.

An ISP release from Friday said the prosecutor will determine if any charges will be filed against the officers involved in the case.

Andrew Maciejewski, Chronicle-Tribune editor, may be reached by email at news@wabashplaindealer.com.

DONATIONS

From page A1

rescheduled for 9 a.m. Feb. 1, 2021, in Marion Superior Court. But, that date will be postponed again as the Indiana Supreme Court last week handed down an Order Suspending Jury Trials statewide until March 1, 2021, "citing the need for drastic measures as COVID-19 continues to surge," according to chief public information officer Kathryn Dolan.

Ford said the new non-permanent fund was founded by Stan and Kathy Leland, to provide "financial support to Wabash County agencies and programs that support Wabash County at-risk children and their families."

"The Lelands were bless-

ed through a 10-year relationship with Nakota, and like the community were devastated by his tragic death," said Ford.

Ford said the Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund is designed to provide financial support to multiple organizations, "all who share the aim of empowering disadvantaged children in Wabash County."

These organizations include the Access Youth Center, Kids Hope, Blessings in a Backpack, Babe of Wabash County and Wabash Little League.

Ford said to "remember Nakota and serve children and families in Wabash County," the CFWC is seeking contributions for the fund.

Ford said from now through Dec. 31, all contributions received up to

\$20,000 will be matched \$1 for \$1 to build the fund.

As far as how many donations have been received thus far, on Tuesday, Ford said the donors asked that those numbers not yet be released.

"However, the fund is still in need of donations for the match," said Ford.

To make a tax-deductible gift to the Nakota Kelly Remembrance Fund, checks should be made payable to the Community Foundation of Wabash County with Nakota's Fund in the memo line and mailed to 105 W. Second St., Suite 100 North Manchester, IN 46962. Donations may also be made online at cfwabash.org.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

ZOOM

From page A1

installed by Intrasect Technologies.

"They'll optimize it for that community room that we have. So the camera will essentially fit it and go with who is speaking. And it also has microphones that will pivot people from different ranges in the room," said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater's request was for \$5,585, which is "all-in on that," including hardware installation and optimization.

Gillenwater said this amount would also include a one-year license for Zoom Rooms, which is required when external

hardware of this nature is used.

According to Zoom, the current cost for each room using the software is \$49 per month.

Gillenwater said going forward, they would budget for this subscription fee in 2022 and beyond.

Gillenwater said the cost of the proposal would most likely be \$1,000 lower because the Wabash County United Fund also uses the room and would probably be able to contribute that amount.

"I think it's a pretty solid chance, I just have to get the confirmation," said Gillenwater.

Gillenwater said once everything was set up, installed and optimized, other groups would be able to

use the space, as well.

"As you know we have a lot of other organizations that come in and use our room for training and that kind of stuff, and we would obviously make that available for anyone to make use of that room," said Gillenwater.

District 1 commissioner and board chairman Brian K. Haupert said he agreed with the necessity of the proposed upgrades.

"We have already utilized that space and realized the issues," said Haupert.

The measure to approve the \$4,485 expenditure was then approved unanimously.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

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Obituaries

STATE BRIEFS

Dora Christian Church in Lagro plans Christmas Eve service

Preacher Mark Wisniewski said Dora Christian Church in Lagro is planning a brief in-person at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24.

NW Indiana officer honored for helping rescue woman, child

VALPARAISO (AP) — A northwest Indiana police officer has been honored for helping rescue a child and a woman who became trapped in a home that collapsed during a fire.

Lt. Kevin Van Kley of the Porter County Sheriff's Office received its Medal of Honor on Monday, becoming only the third officer in the department's history so honored.

He made the rescue Sept. 10 after hearing a call for service over his police scanner about

an active fire with a family reportedly trapped inside their home. The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

Officials said Van Kley heard screams from the house when he arrived at the scene and quickly entered the burning home, which had collapsed, and removed debris that had trapped a child inside.

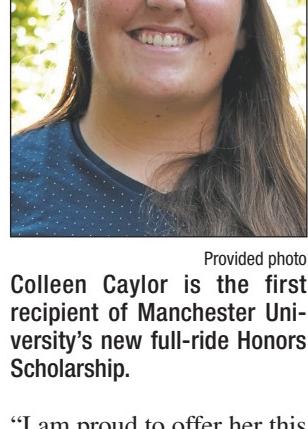
After that rescue, Van Kley navigated his way to another area of the home where others could be heard shouting, "All hands on deck," as fire and police responders worked to lift the home's roof, which had collapsed to the ground level. He then helped others rescue a woman from that debris.

"It was nothing short of a miracle that we were close by," Van Kley said in the news release.

Two other officers who also responded to the fire scene — Sgt. Michael Piazza and Sgt. Dave Murray — received Life Saving Awards for their role in the rescues.

Manchester selects Caylor for full-ride Honors Scholarship

The Norwell High School senior is the daughter of Tanya and Bob Caylor of Ossian
By ANNE GREGORY



Provided photo
Colleen Caylor is the first recipient of Manchester University's new full-ride Honors Scholarship.

"I am proud to offer her this scholarship."

Caylor was admitted to the National Honor Society her junior year and participated in Junior Leaders since her sophomore year. She has played softball and golf throughout her high school career, serving as softball co-captain and captain of the golf team. She has been a member of the high school's German Club for four years and a member of 4-H for 10 years. Caylor has also been in concert, pep and jazz band.

"Colleen Caylor is not only an extraordinary student, but she is also an extraordinary human being," said Norwell teacher Quinn Biberstine in support of the scholarship application. She is Caylor's high school German teacher. "As a student, she understands new concepts quickly and easily. On the rare occasion that new concepts are not immediately clear, she asks important questions that help not only her but also her classmates, process new information."

Biberstine said Caylor has been active in her community and focuses on ways to improve our world.

"Her participation in Talk to Interlock is perhaps the most telling of her endeavors," the teacher said. The Fort Wayne-based group brainstormed ways to make the community stronger, with a focus on the needs of students and refugees who are learning English as a second language.

She described Caylor as a lover of books and science who has volunteered with the Friends of the Library, the 4-H Foundation and organizations dedicated to the betterment of the lives of differently-abled people and people with autism.

Among those applying for the Honors Scholarship, five will be selected for the Trustee Scholarship. Recipients receive up to \$24,000 per year for up to four years.

Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

The Honors Program at Manchester also focuses on developing students into leaders, on-campus and in the community.

"Colleen exemplifies true leadership and exhibits a high level of academic curiosity," said Manchester President Dave McFadden.

Dr. Robert L. Mattern, 86, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 5:40 am, Sunday, December 20, 2020 at Parkview Wabash Hospital. He was born April 6, 1934 in Wabash, to Robert G. "Pug" and Dorothy Elizabeth "Dodo" (Milliner) Mattern.

Dr. Mattern was a 1952 graduate of Wabash High School. He attended Western Michigan University one year, Indiana University two years, and graduated from the IU School of Dentistry in Indianapolis on June 9, 1958. Dr. Mattern married Barbara Ann Bonewit at the Wabash Street Methodist Church on June 17, 1956; she died September 29, 2020. From 1959-1960, Dr. Mattern served in the US Air Force. They lived in Columbus, Mississippi, where he was stationed as a Captain in the dental clinic for two years. In 1960 they moved back to Wabash to practice general dentistry and continued until his retirement in October of 2014. Dr. Mattern



was active on the state level of the Indiana Dental Association. He served as delegate to the American Dental Association and the Indiana State Dental Association. He then served 46 years on the Indiana State Council on Dental Education, serving as chairman six years, and the Indiana Dental School Admission Committee. Dr. Mattern was a lifelong member and elder of the Wabash Christian Church and an active member of the Wabash Kiwanis Club, serving as

President, board member, Lieutenant Governor, Historian and had over 50 years of perfect attendance. He was on the Falls Cemetery Board, serving as President several years. He served on the Wabash City Council from 1963-1971, and the Paradise Spring Board for 35 years, including 10 years as President, and was instrumental in clearing the land and planning the park. Dr. Mattern was on the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission six years.

He is survived by four children, Dr. Robert J. Mattern of Roann, Indiana, Diane (Rick) Kerlin of Warsaw, Indiana, Lisa (Scott) Mattern-Billings and Megan (Josh) Long, both of Wabash, nine grandchildren, Chelsea Traver of Lincolnville, Alley Traver of Wabash, Maxwell (Morgan) Mattern of Roanoke, Indiana, Sydney Mattern of Roann, Camille Kerlin and Carson Kerlin, both of Warsaw, Karigan Long, Cooper Long, and Cruz Long, all of

Wabash, three step grandchildren, Cord Billings and Paige (Garret) Foutch, both of Lafayette, Indiana, and Grant Billings of Indianapolis, Indiana, two step great grandchildren, Madison & Hadley Foutch of Lafayette, brother, Thomas (Linda) Mattern and sister, Carol Stefanatos, both of Wabash. He was also preceded in death by his parents, and his twin brother, Richard Mattern.

Funeral services will be 2:00 pm, Wednesday, December 23, 2020, at Wabash Christian Church, 110 W. Hill Street, Wabash, with Rev. Haley Asberry officiating. Burial will be in Falls Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4-8 pm Tuesday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave, Wabash.

Preferred memorials are Wabash Kiwanis Club or Wabash Christian Church.

The memorial guest book for Dr. Mattern may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Dr. Robert L. Mattern

April 6, 1934 - Dec. 20, 2020

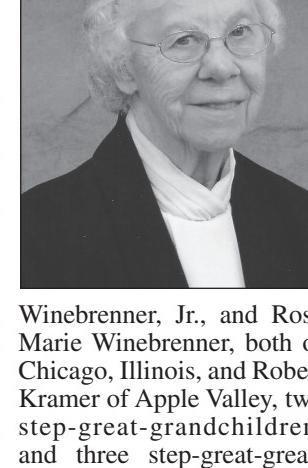
Jane L. Gorsuch Winebrenner

Aug. 3, 1928 - Dec. 21, 2020

Jane L. Gorsuch Winebrenner, 92, of Peabody Retirement Community, in North Manchester, Indiana, died at 8:10 am, Monday, December 21, 2020 at Peabody Retirement Community. She was born on August 3, 1928 in Urbana, Indiana, to Helen Ziner.

Jane was a 1946 graduate of Urbana High School. She first married Ralph Gorsuch in Urbana on June 29, 1947; he died August 13, 1979. She then married George W. Winebrenner in Urbana on August 29, 1981; he died December 2, 2006. Jane was a homemaker and also was a teacher's aide at Northfield Jr/Sr High School for eleven and a half years. She was a member of St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Urbana, where she was very active for many years. Jane was an avid fisherman, and enjoyed camping.

She is survived by daughter, Barbara (Marvin) Gobles of Little River, South Carolina, two step-daughters, Sherri Kramer of Apple Valley, California, and Nancy C. Reed of North Manchester, four grandchildren, Angela (Jason) Young of Lebanon, Ohio, Mindy (Shawn) Flack of Toledo, Ohio, Christopher Gobles, of Bronxville, New York, and Nathan (Marsha) Gobles of Blythewood, South Carolina, seven great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, Bill



Winebrenner, Jr., and Rose Marie Winebrenner, both of Chicago, Illinois, and Robert Kramer of Apple Valley, two step-great-grandchildren, and three step-great-great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her mother, son, Gregory Gorsuch, daughter-in-law, Marsha Gorsuch, and step-son, Bill Winebrenner.

Funeral services will be 11:00 am, Thursday, December 24, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave., Wabash, with Brian Chamberlain officiating. Burial will be in St. Peter's Cemetery, Urbana. Friends may call 9:30 - 11:00 am, Thursday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Wabash County Cancer Society and American Cancer Society.

The memorial guest book for Jane may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Joseph Robert Nice

May 10, 1929 - Dec. 19, 2020

Joseph Robert Nice, 91, of North Manchester, Indiana, died at 10:30 pm, Saturday, December 19, 2020 at Peabody Healthcare Center in North Manchester. He was born May 10, 1929 in Cannelton, Indiana, to William and Dorothy (Overheiser) Nice.

Joe attended Indiana University on a football scholarship. He then enlisted in the US Navy and played football at the Great Lakes Naval Base and at Bremington, Washington. He was a Quartermaster 2nd Class and served on the Bataan and the Oriskany Ships. He would navigate the ships upon request of the Captain. Joe first married Joy Wertenberger; she died in 1978. He then married Elaine (Robbins) Vandenbergham in Wabash on June 18, 1982. He managed the W.R. Thomas Department Store in Warsaw and Angola, owned Hoosier Muffler Shop, worked for Bertsch Vending in Wabash, and after retirement was the Vice President of a Helicopter Service in Indianapolis. Joe ran for Wabash County Sheriff and after his defeat in the election, he was elected to the Wabash County Council. He was a member of the College Corner Brethren Church, a former member of the Lions Club and Forresters Club, and a life member of the Wabash VFW Post 286 and the Warsaw Masonic Lodge. Joe enjoyed sailboating, and traveled through the locks from Tennessee to Mississippi

and back. He made headlines when he and a friend dove with a hand made bell to the bottom of Center Lake in Kosciusko County.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine Nice of North Manchester, four children, Merlin (Susan) Nice of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Daniel (Susie) Nice of Mobile, Alabama, David (Jane) Nice of Paulding, Ohio, and Rebecca (Mike) Jamrog of Midland, Michigan, step son, Jay (Kimberly) Vanlandingham of North Manchester, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, two step grandchildren, and five step-great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his parents, three brothers, and two sisters.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic there will be no services. Burial will be in Oakwood Cemetery, Warsaw. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

The memorial guest book for Joseph may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Howard L. Nickel

Howard L. Nickel, 72, of rural LaFontaine, passed away on December 21, 2020, from his battle with cancer.

Howard married Sue Siebert on January 7, 1989 in Ohio; she survives.

Howard graduated in 1966 from North Union High School in Richwood, Ohio. He worked at United Technologies until he retired in 2013. He served in the Unit-

ed States Army and was in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970.

Per Howard's request, there will be no services.

Arrangements have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 South Main Street, LaFontaine.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

Julia Anne Elliott

Julia Anne Elliott, 94, of Wabash, passed away on December 20, 2020 at Colonial Oaks Retirement Home.

Julia married Bill Gene Elliott on May 11, 1946; he passed away on July 21, 1980. She retired from Wabash Magnetics after working there for over 39 years. Julia was a member of the Wabash Christ United Methodist Church.

Due to Covid restrictions, family is having a private graveside service to be held at Mississinewa Memorial Cemetery.

Funeral services have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.mcdonaldfunerals.com.

William D. Byall

William D. Byall, 43, of Fort Wayne, passed away Friday, December 18, 2020. He loved hunting and fishing and was a very gregarious man.

Survivors include his moth-

er, Judy Adams (Herbert) Mullen of Wabash; sister, Janeen (Francis) Carteaux of Columbia City; brothers, Arthur Byall, Adam Byall, and Richard Byall Jr., all of

Fort Wayne; eight nieces and nephews, and special friend Susan Schuhler. His father, Richard Byall, Sr., preceded him in death.

Service will be Monday, De-

The year of St. Joe

This is the year of Joe. Not Biden. But the main man in the Nativity scene nearest you (since Jesus is but a baby, albeit divine). Pope Francis delivered the news of a year dedicated to St. Joseph earlier this month on the

Kathryn Lopez
Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8. So, we are already a few weeks in.

Since the pandemic hit, the little things have taken on a new importance. A year ago, going to the grocery store didn't seem like an act of courage. Charity has taken a front seat, and so has fear. St. Joseph could have been consumed by fear when he heard that his wife was pregnant with the son of God. Could our cynical times receive such news? And yet, here we are at Christmas, which invites us to a renewed humility, to an understanding that our greatest weaknesses can become our greatest strengths.

"[W]e must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy," is how Pope Francis puts it in his proclamation of the Year of St. Joseph. He says: "Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan, were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid

the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture."

So much of what the pope says is relevant to what we are currently living through. Consider these words: "Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us."

Tender love has myriad practical implications. The fact that Joseph is the foster father of Jesus is incredibly relevant. With over 400,000 children in the foster-care system in the United States today, St. Joseph's presence in a creche scene reminds us of those children who do not have stable, permanent, loving homes – a forever family, as it is often put. If you have a moment to give thanks this Christmas, to see children smile – or scream – under the lights of a tree, remember there are children who have been scarred by trauma and maltreatment. The miracle of a tender heart in their lives could be a way out of the darkness. It's something to consider.

And about the other Joe in the news – it can be music to my ears to hear St. Francis of Assisi cited, as the president-elect did after the Electoral College made his win official. "[F]or where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith, where there

is darkness, light," Biden quoted. The pray is a plea to God for the grace to be a vessel of tenderness – the kind of merciful love that is the reason we celebrate Christmas. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life," as John 1:16 famously puts it. I'm hoping against hope that Biden might pay more attention to what the Catholic Church has to say about abortion during his administration.

The day after a big snowstorm in New York, I happened upon some graffiti: "Laugh, cry and honk your [heart] out. Our country is saved. Thank you, Joe and Kamala." Even the person who wrote that doesn't really believe that the country is saved, I'm sure. But exuberance is a reflection on how over this year people are. In his words on St. Joseph, Pope Francis repeated what Jesus said to St. Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." That's the kind of humble approach we need for a revolution of tenderness that will save us – it's not up to us, but to God, with our cooperation.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book "A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living." She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan's pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

Christmas in the Intensive Care Unit: Decorations, lights and many tears

By JAY REEVES
Associated Press

OPELIKA, Ala. — A Christmas tree stands outside the intensive care room where a man stricken by COVID-19 lies unconscious, a machine breathing for him. A few feet away, a plastic snowman adorns the door of another patient whose face is barely visible behind ventilator tubes.

The decorations are "a way to let family members know that we're trying, and we love these patients and we want them to feel like it's Christmas as much as we can," nurse Carla Fallin said, standing just outside one of the rooms at East Alabama Medical Center.

While parades, shopping and Christmas tree lightings go on around them, nurses and doctors who've spent agonizing months caring for the ill are doing what they can to get through the holiday season, which many fear will only spread the disease and add to the U.S. death toll that has surpassed 300,000.

The medical center about 60 miles northeast of Montgomery faces a new influx of COVID-19 patients as the pandemic intensifies. That means staff members can hang decorations on patients' doors in the ICU but cannot attend after-work Christmas parties. A cheerful Santa doll stands atop the desk at a nursing station, but big gatherings with relatives are out.

A nurse for five years, Fallin said Christmas just doesn't feel right this year. She and her husband did not take their two young sons to local Christmas events that drew hundreds of people, many without masks.

The decorations in the ICU help lighten the mental load a little, she said, if only until another patient nears death.

The red-brick hospital is near Auburn University in the old railroad town of Opelika, a city of 30,000 that decorated its streetlights and overpasses with green garlands and red ribbons for the season. A huge Christmas tree stands near downtown boutiques, salons and restaurants where hundreds of residents crowded together for a holiday program last weekend.

East Alabama Medical Center draws patients from a mostly rural region. Many people in the city wear masks in compliance with a state order, but fewer health precautions are visible in surrounding areas.

The area was an early hot spot for the virus in the spring.

Then cases eased before a summertime spike that health officials blamed on backyard cookouts and lake gatherings around July 4.

Just as in other places across the country, a surge in infections linked to Thanksgiving is now filling up beds at the hospital. With vaccines not yet available to the general public, hospital officials dread what might happen in January after families board airplanes for the holidays and spend hours gathered around dinner tables or Christmas trees.

Amid so much suffering and after so many tears, any ray of brightness helps, even if it's just a candy cane sticker on a ICU window, said Dr. Meshia Wallace, a pulmonary physician who works in critical care.

"Families come in, and all they're getting for the most part is bad news: 'Your family member is sick, they've moved down from the seventh floor to the ICU,'" she said. "A little bit of Christmas cheer is not going to hurt. It can only help."

Wallace is skipping her usual Christmas gathering of about 30 relatives and hopes to spend the holiday with an aunt

Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you

FORD

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U.S. deaths in 2020 top 3M, by far most ever counted

By MIKE STOBBE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — This is the deadliest year in U.S. history, with deaths expected to top 3 million for the first time — due mainly to the coronavirus pandemic.

Final mortality data for this year will not be available for months. But preliminary numbers suggest that the United States is on track to see more than 3.2 million deaths this year, or at least 400,000 more than in 2019.

U.S. deaths increase most years, so some annual rise in fatalities is expected. But the 2020 numbers amount to a jump of about 15 percent, and could go higher once all the deaths from this month are counted.

That would mark the largest single-year percentage leap since 1918, when tens of thousands of U.S. soldiers died in World War I and hundreds of thousands of Americans died in a flu pandemic. Deaths rose 46 percent that year, compared with 1917.

COVID-19 has killed more than 318,000 Americans and counting. Before it came along, there was reason to be hopeful about U.S. death trends.

The nation's overall mortality rate fell a bit in 2019, due to reductions in heart disease and cancer deaths. And life expectancy inched up — by several weeks — for the second straight year, according to death certificate data released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But life expectancy for 2020 could end up dropping as much as three full years, said Robert Anderson of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Many of those, too, may be related to COVID. The virus could have weakened patients already struggling with those conditions, or could have diminished the care they were getting, he said.

Early in the epidemic, some were optimistic that car crash deaths would drop as people stopped

commuting or driving to social events. Data on that is not yet in, but anecdotal reports suggest there was no such decline.

Suicide deaths dropped in 2019 compared with 2018, but early information suggests they have not continued to drop this year, Anderson and others said.

Drug overdose deaths, meanwhile, got much worse.

Before the coronavirus even arrived, the U.S. was in the midst of the deadliest drug overdose epidemic in its history.

Data for all of 2020 is not yet available. But last week the CDC reported more than 81,000 drug overdose deaths in the 12 months ending in May, making it the highest number ever recorded in a one-year period.

Experts think the pandemic's disruption to in-person treatment and recovery services may have been a factor. People also are more likely to be taking drugs alone — without the benefit of a friend or family member who can call 911 or administer overdose-reversing medication.

But perhaps a bigger factor are the drugs themselves: COVID-19 caused supply problems for dealers, so they are increasingly mixing cheap and deadly fentanyl into heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine, experts said.

"I don't suspect there are a bunch of new people who suddenly started using drugs because of COVID. If anything, I think the supply of people who are already using drugs is more contaminated," said Shannon Monnat, a Syracuse University researcher who studies drug overdose trends.



Sports

A5

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

WabashPlainDealer.com

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Buffalo	11	3	0	.786	407	340
Miami	9	5	0	.643	352	257
New England	6	8	0	.429	289	301
N.Y. Jets	1	13	0	.071	206	413

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	399	320
Tennessee	10	4	0	.714	436	361
Houston	4	10	0	.286	315	386
Jacksonville	1	13	0	.071	275	423

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	11	3	0	.786	366	264
Cleveland	10	4	1	.714	368	374
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	403	287
Cincinnati	3	10	1	.250	271	355

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Kansas City	13	1	0	.929	435	310
Las Vegas	7	7	0	.500	377	421
Denver	5	9	0	.357	276	395
L.A. Chargers	5	9	0	.357	327	389

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	8	0	.429	302	295
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	339	433
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	244	311
Philadelphia	4	9	1	.321	303	361

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	397	297
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	401	321
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	355	353
Carolina	4	10	0	.286	323	356

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	434	339
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	318
Minnesota	6	8	0	.429	360	388
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	335	435

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	10	4	0	.714	413	339
L.A. Rams	9	5	0	.643	345	269
Arizona	8	6	0	.571	391	329
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	333	352

y-clinched playoff spot

Saturday's Games

Buffalo 48, Denver 19

Green Bay 24, Carolina 16

Sunday's Games

Baltimore 40, Jacksonville 14

Chicago 33, Minnesota 27

Dallas 41, San Francisco 33

Indianapolis 27, Houston 20

Miami 22, New England 12

Seattle 20, Washington 15

Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 27

Tennessee 46, Detroit 25

Arizona 33, Philadelphia 26

N.Y. Jets 23, L.A. Rams 20

Kansas City 32, New Orleans 29

Cleveland 20, N.Y. Giants 6

Monday's Game

Cincinnati 27, Pittsburgh 17

Friday, Dec. 25

Minnesota at New Orleans, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 26

Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.

San Francisco at Arizona, 4:30 p.m.

Miami at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 27

Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.

Carolina at Washington, 1 p.m.

Chicago at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.

Cincinnati at Houston, 1 p.m.

Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 1 p.m.

Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.

L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.

Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.

Tennessee at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 28

Buffalo at New England, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Glance

Canceled

Bahamas Bowl

Birmingham Bowl

Celebration Bowl

Fenway Bowl

Frisco Bowl

Guaranteed Rate Bowl

Hawaii Bowl

Holiday Bowl

Independence Bowl

LA Bowl

Las Vegas Bowl

Military Bowl

Pinstripe Bowl

Quick Lane Bowl

Redbox Bowl

Sun Bowl

Monday, Dec. 21

Myrtle Beach Bowl

Conway, S.C.

Appalachian St. 56, North Texas 28

Tuesday, Dec. 22

New Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

Boise

Tulane vs. Nevada, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl

UCF vs. No. 13 BYU,

Exposure of porn addiction rocks marriage of 40 years

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine has recently discovered that her husband of 40-plus years has been hiding a decades-long porn addiction. The discovery has caused a problem in their marriage. They have had counseling.

He says he wants to save their marriage and has vowed to give up the porn. I was told he told his wife that if she decides to divorce him,

he will tell the entire family and their children that SHE was the one addicted to porn, and it is the reason he's divorcing her. My question is, what kind of person would treat his wife this way and think this is an appropriate way to save the marriage? — Twisted In Kentucky

DEAR TWISTED: Unfortunately, the husband has a problem greater than his porn addiction. It's his lack of character and honesty. His threat is not only inappropriate, but also a valid reason to end the marriage.

P.S. I can't imagine why her family would buy that lie.

DEAR ABBY: In 1972, when I was 12, my father died by suicide. I was told it was an accident. I was given an explanation, but the facts didn't add up. I suspected it was suicide. In 1998, my brother also died by suicide. Afterward, I asked Mom if Dad had done it, too. She denied it, but I knew better.

Around the time of my brother's death, I lost my best friend/co-worker/father figure of 17 years to suicide. His son was told his dad had had a heart attack. He is now a father in his 40s, and I think he deserves to know. Should I remain silent as I have for more than 20 years? — In A Moral Dilemma

DEAR DILEMMA: Years ago, when a family member died by suicide, it was considered shameful and kept a family secret. Because depression can run in families, these kinds of secrets can be harmful. Today we know more, and there are programs available to help families who have suffered this kind of tragic loss. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800-273-8255) offers support to surviving family members.

I do think you should talk to your friend's son. Introduce the topic by telling him what happened in your family, how much his father meant to you and your concern for him and his own family, which is why you are bringing it up now.

DEAR ABBY: It's not the first time, but certainly will be the last time I'm invited to a close friend's house without my baby girl, my 12-year-old retired therapy dog, "Lady." Everyone loves Lady. So does my friend. (I even have her portrait tattooed on my leg.) Is it rude to not want to visit my friend because Lady is not welcome? — Loves My Lady

DEAR LOVES: It's not rude. It is a choice. What I DO think is rude is attempting to blackmail someone into allowing a loved, but unwanted, pet into their home knowing it isn't welcome. If Lady were still a therapy dog, I might feel differently, but Lady is now retired, and her presence is no longer a medical necessity.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Dear Abby

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Shaman or therapist
- 34 Internet note
- 36 Nairobi's cont.
- 38 Fem. saint
- 39 Televises
- 40 Look at impertinently
- 41 Pioneer
- 42 Clues
- 43 Gaze at
- 44 Time divs.
- 45 Checkout scan
- 47 Bradley and McBain
- 50 Hun honcho
- 53 I-beam lifters
- 57 Borrowed car
- 58 Less trouble
- 59 Spanish girlfriends
- 60 Resides

DOWN

- 1 Med. plan
- 2 Dawn goddess
- 3 "Exodus" name
- 4 Pantry item
- 5 Essayist's pen name
- 6 Esteem
- 7 "Instant" house
- 8 Convention site
- 9 Approving
- 10 Pinch
- 11 19th letter
- 12 Yon maiden
- 19 Run of luck
- 20 Dorm sharer
- 21 Beehive
- 23 Barbarian
- 25 Paltry
- 26 Glib speech
- 27 Burns up the road
- 29 Mr. Mineo of films
- 33 Have being
- 35 Handing out
- 37 Took to the cleaners
- 40 Prized statuettes
- 46 Petition
- 48 Take a card
- 49 Business enc.
- 50 — carte
- 51 Jones of fiction
- 52 — chi ch'uan
- 54 Goose egg
- 55 Sushi morsel
- 56 Almost-grads

12-23

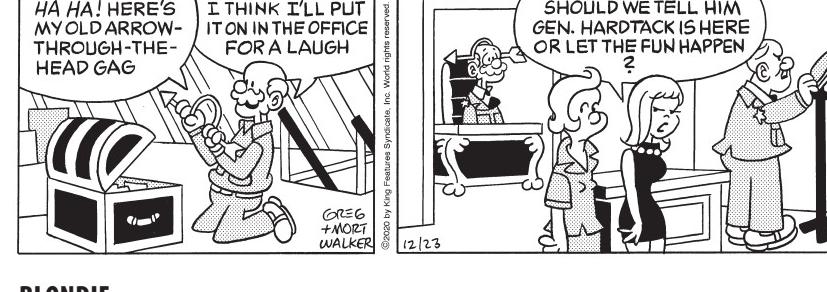
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	E	R	E	I	M	P	K	I	N	D
O	V	E	N	S	A	O	O	R	E	O
W	I	N	D	M	I	S	T	A	K	E
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A	P	E	G	U	N	S	A	Y		
D	E	C	I	T	F	O	I	E		
D	A	H	S		A	T	T	I	L	A
S	L	O	P		C	I	A	O	L	O
N	A	U	G		A	O	N	R	A	
E	D	N	A		R	E	P	S	P	

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BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Angels are ministering spirits sent to help the heirs of salvation

Q: Christmas plays always depict angels as gentle females in flowing white robes, almost like a fairy godmother. However, when I read the Bible I do not

see angels described this way. Why? — P.A.

A: We often get false notions about angels from plays given by children at Christmas. It is true that angels are ministering spirits sent to help the heirs of salvation. But just as they fulfill God's will in salvation for believers in Jesus Christ, so they are also "avengers" who use their great power to fulfill God's will in judgment. One day an angel will blow the trumpet to announce impending judgment when God summons the nations to stand before Him in the last great judgment.

The Bible says that

throughout history angels have worked to carry out God's judgments, directing the destinies of nations disobedient to God. God used angels in scattering the people of Israel because of their sins. He also used angels in bringing judgment on many ancient cities that refused to live according to God's standards.

But the writer of Hebrews does speak of angelic forces: "Who makes [God's] angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire" (Hebrews 1:7). The flaming fire suggests the power of the angels who carry out God's decisions according to His righteousness. But when the Savior was born in Bethlehem, God presented His angel with the heavenly host praising and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14). This is what Christmas is all about.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present.

Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Z N H E C R C Z G D A H D K R N H L C R
P E K U D L W K R Y L D W A D N H L C R O D W Y D ,
T A H O Y H L L E O A Z H K , T A H O R L E U T
U D A A Z K U A H G Z R T . — G D C C X
O L D T A H K

Previous Solution: "It doesn't bother me in the least. I will die without having come up with the answers to many things in life." — Alex Trebek

TODAY'S CLUE: H sjenbe d

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DBEIA

LEOHL

SWIGAJ

RFONEZ

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THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

SWEPT WICKED AFFORD

Saturday's Jumbles: ODDLY SWEEPT WICKED AFFORD

Answer: When she saw her mom upside-down doing a headstand, the girl — SAID WOW!

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" " - " " - " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

SWEPT WICKED AFFORD

Saturday's Jumbles: ODDLY SWEEPT WICKED AFFORD

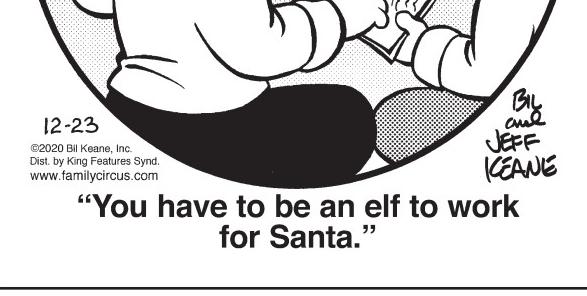
Answer: When she saw her mom upside-down doing a headstand, the girl — SAID WOW!

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"You have to be an elf to work for Santa."

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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

12-23

Billy Graham
My Answer

Billy Graham

My Answer

Billy Graham

My Answer

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Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.

B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 1-202-224-5623 <http://young.senate.gov/contact>

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.

B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-4814 <http://braun.senate.gov/>

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2

419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17

Indiana Senate 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9467 Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Winkins, R-District 18

Indiana House 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204 1-800-382-9841 h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

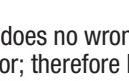
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the news-paper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



DAILY SCRIPTURE

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:10

OUR TAKE

Brighter days lie ahead

The darkest day of 2020 has come and gone, marking a turning point in what may be the dimmest-feeling year in modern memory.

No, we aren't referring to Election Day or politics at all. We are talking about the winter solstice, which happened to be truly special this year if you are into astrology.

For the first time in nearly 800 years, Jupiter and Saturn came into alignment Monday, according to NASA. This "great conjunction," as astronomers call it, doesn't normally fall on winter solstice, the shortest day of the year in the northern hemisphere. But we got lucky this year.

Although the planets won't be within .1 degree of each other today as it was Monday, our readers will still have the opportunity to see the two largest planets in our solar system side by side if we are blessed to have clear skies tonight or over the coming days.

This unique phenomenon is also significant since December's new moon began on Dec. 14, which means there won't be too much light reflecting off the moon and polluting the view of the night sky.

Even if you miss this astrological spectacle, you might notice a steady improvement in your mood over the coming days and months since the

winter solstice has come and gone. The days will grow longer by a couple minutes each day from now until June 20, the longest day of 2021.

Studies have shown that people sometimes suffer from seasonal depression during the winter months since the dark hours outlast the daylight. Although there will be more darkness than light until the vernal equinox on March 20, 2021 – when the length of daylight and darkness are equal once again – the slightly-longer days will add some much-needed light during the cold months ahead.

Astrology aside, there are many other things to be thankful for as we count down the last days of 2020, a year filled with chaos and challenges.

We would certainly be remiss if we didn't also highlight the brave and strong frontline workers across our country putting their health and wellness at risk on a daily basis in order to protect the vulnerable and keep our country going.

To our healthcare workers, teachers and first responders, thank you. To our shelf stockers, clerks and workers who have continued to persevere day in and day out, thank you. To our neighbors, family and friends who stepped up to support one another during these trying times, thank you.

After all, positivity brings about positive outcomes, and we can all use a bit of brightness to overcome these dark, unprecedented times.

The year 2020 is not over yet, so there is still time to make a positive impact. Do your part to help those who need it most.

While we have millions of vaccinations being shuttled across our country right now, we are not quite in the clear. We will need to rely on each other and continue to do the right thing, like following CDC guidelines, for many more months, but we should move forward with hope guiding the way.

While Christmas and the holiday season has changed dramatically this year, we are lucky to live in Wabash County, where storefronts are decorated for the occasion and where many neighbors are decorating their homes with colorful displays. These little things add light to dark times, and their impacts are both tangible and contagious.

Brighter days are ahead, both in a physical and psychological sense, as 2020 fades away. Although we are all exhausted, let's challenge ourselves to add as much light and hope to our community as we can, while we can.

After all, positivity brings about positive outcomes, and we can all use a bit of brightness to overcome these dark, unprecedented times.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

Christmas lights extinguish 2020's darkness

Let's just say, if it wasn't moving, I've already wrapped a strand of lights around it.

And, apparently, I'm not alone. Driving around this town, or any other, these days is like visiting the Magic Kingdom, or Oz or, at least, Fifth Avenue at Christmastime. As never before in my memory, the holidays arrived early this year with a feast of lights that suggests as much about our resilience as our collective need for a pick-me-up.

As the worst year in several generations finally grinds to a close, we're celebrating not just the religious season but also the end of a season of darkness. Between a relentless pandemic and a democracy-challenging election, our suddenly brighter world heralds a common pursuit of happier days. What better way to summon new beginnings than by hanging wreaths, tying bows and stringing lights from every bough and rooftop?

Friends from across the country report similar manifestations of local cheer. I haven't flown since March, but I imagine the country looks like it has been invaded by billions of lightning bugs. My own house could serve as a beacon for lost pilots.

Not one for excessive ornamentation, I typically cringe when stores put out holiday decorations early or force Christmas carols on shoppers before the Halloween costumes have been marked down. But this year even I tossed out my own rule against anything Christmas until after Thanksgiving. And I could see through people's windows that I was by no means unusual.

It wasn't long before I was in hot pursuit of the Gaudy and the Glorious. I've swagged the front driveway with garlands, red bows and white lights. A light post is now wreathed and bowed. White lights run the length of the front porch and two Christmas trees flank the front door. Where a tasteful wreath and a couple of poinsettias used to do, I was eyeing the last inflatable Santa during a recent visit to Lowe's, where I had sprinted to buy one of the last trees – and, yes, to buy yet more lights.

Lo and behold, nary a strand for sale. The shelves that just the day before (I go almost daily) had been laden with every sort of décor, and enough candlepower to light a small forest of firs, were now filled with empty red and green storage bins. Just a handful of trees remained.

No white lights. No colored lights. No inflatable Santas. (I was cheered by a story in the Post about a Black Arkansas family that placed an inflatable Black Santa amid their front yard display. When the family received a racist rant in their mailbox attacking their Santa, their neighbors in the mostly White North Little Rock neighborhood of Lakewood began putting up Black Santas on their own yards. Yay, Lakewood. And welcome (almost to 2021.)

The past year has left us exhausted from sadness, sickness and death, from election denial, hyper-partisanship and mean-spiritedness that has hovered over us like a low-lying toxic cloud. Away and be gone with the hate and the greed. We're worn out and worn down by isolation, shutdowns, quarantines, home schooling, economic turmoil, destroyed businesses and lost jobs – and especially separation from friends and loved ones.

The absence of joy has haunted every household. Loss is our common denominator.

So no wonder we've pulled out the stops. We've become armies of lamplighters, reversing the darkness and spreading the flame of civility and civilization from one front yard to the next, a shared ritual of belief in something greater than ourselves and, closer to home, belief in one another.

These riots of light are about more than just our many December holidays. They're testaments to unity, communion, innocence, hope and joy. One candle lights another and another and another until the sun rises and the trumpets blare. Which is an excessively ornamental way to say that America's spirit of goodness, love and charity is alive and well.

You can see it twinkling everywhere.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.



Mother Teresa: Facing doubt

On a wall of the weight room in my gym at St. Joseph Medical Center downtown is a quote attributed to Mother Teresa that's been sneaking up on me for the last few months.

Leo Morris

Many of you probably already know it: People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. / If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind

anyway. / If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true friends; succeed anyway. / If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. / What

you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway. / If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. / The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. / Give the world your best anyway. / You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; / It was never between you and them anyway.

That sentiment will be quite unremarkable to the faith community in general and Catholics in particular. Putting your God above all else is pretty much the cornerstone of most religions.

But I think there is meaning in there for the secular world as well, wisdom so profound it has found expression in any number of mundane ways: Don't sweat the small stuff. Keep your eye on the prize. Stop and smell the roses. I was not put on this earth to live up to your expectations.

Too often we let others' opinions divert our attention from where it should be, on why we do what we do and for whom we are doing it. Pleasing them becomes, at least in the moment, more important than understanding our purpose in life. It's the equivalent of straightening up the house before the cleaners get there so they won't think poorly of us.

And we tend to let the clutter of daily life overwhelm us. How many millions of people have been so caught up in the meetings,

schedules and daily frustrations of their jobs that they forgot what they loved about them in the first place?

There's nothing especially metaphysical in that.

In fact, the original version of the "Do it anyway" mediation doesn't even mention God. Called "The Paradoxical Commandments," it was written by Kent M. Keith, who later became president of Pacific Rim Christian University, in 1968 when he was a Harvard University sophomore.

The ending of the piece, as he wrote it, went:

If you give the world the best you have, you may get kicked in the teeth, but give the world the best you have anyway.

The commandments went through many versions, attributed to various people, and one of them ended up on the wall of a children's home Mother Teresa ran in Calcutta. A 1995 book about her included that version, and it has been attributed to her ever since.

Keith was once asked about the Mother Teresa version (at least the iteration that's been widely circulated on the Internet), and he said he was troubled by how the ending had been changed:

"...they can be read in a way that is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus, the life of Mother Teresa, and the message of the Paradoxical Commandments themselves. The statement that 'it was never between you and them anyway' seems to justify giving up on, or ignoring, or discounting other people."

"That is what Jesus told us we should not do. Jesus said that there are two great commandments – to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. So in the final analysis, it is between you and God, but it is also between you and 'them.'

And when it comes to them, Jesus made it clear that we have to love people and help people anyway.

We can't give up on them or ignore them or write them off."

The two versions of the endings provide quite a challenge, I think. We can't let the opinions of others divert us from what we know should be most important to us. But unless we live on a desert island, we have to accommodate

those people, make allowances for the way they perceive us.

I've negotiated that anxiety, on the edge of uncertainty, for most of my career. I became an opinion writer to pursue the truth as I saw it, despite the admonitions of so many that the truth was unknowable, including an editor who kept insisting there was no such thing as "reality," only our individual perceptions of it. Yet, if I do not believe I can convince others that, even if we'll never know the ultimate truth, it's worth seeking small glimpses of it, why am I writing in the first place?

Mother Teresa had something to say about that, too.

A posthumously published book exploring some of her letters revealed a terrible darkness in her, a profound doubt about the self-sacrifice of her mission for the poor, even about the existence of God. "The silence and the emptiness is so great," she wrote, "that I look and do not see, listen and do not hear."

A philosopher and professor named John Kavanaugh tells of traveling thousands of miles to Calcutta to ask Mother Teresa to pray for him so that he might achieve clarity.

"That I will not do," she told him.

"I don't understand. Why not?" he asked.

She smiled and said, "Clarity is the last thing you are clinging to and must let go of."

Many people were shocked to learn of Mother Teresa's doubt. It just made me like her more.

Faith does not exist without doubt. The purpose of faith is not to deny doubt but to overcome it. Mother Teresa ignored the opinion of others and worked through the great emptiness inside her to alleviate profound suffering for the world's most desperate.

Doubt can crush us or inspire us. That's what I would write on the wall.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedit@comcast.net.

These riots of light are about more than just our many December holidays. They're testaments to unity, communion, innocence, hope and joy. One candle lights another and another and another until the sun rises and the trumpets blare.

Which is an excessively ornamental way to say that America's spirit of goodness, love and charity is alive and well.

You can see it twinkling everywhere.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.



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Legals**LEGAL NOTICE****DUKE ENERGY INDIANA, LLC**

Public notice is hereby given to affected property owners pursuant to 170 IAC 4-9-4(f) that within two (2) to six (6) weeks of the date of this notice, weather permitting, Duke Energy Indiana, LLC will be performing vegetation management as part of its power line maintenance program in the area described below. As part of this project, one of its contractors that employ qualified utility line clearance tree workers will be trimming and/or removing trees and brush to clear the lines of vegetation in order to provide safe and reliable electric service. Vegetation management will be performed in/near Wabash on or near streets identified below:

Beginning at the substation located near the intersection of 15 & Lafontaine Ave, to include the areas around & near: S of the Wabash River, E of S 400 W, N of W 400 S, W of S 100 W

The date this notice is published initiates the two (2) week period for calculating implied consent by an affected property owner under 170 IAC 4-9. If you have any questions you may contact the Duke Energy Vegetation Management toll free number, 866-385-3675. Duke Energy Indiana, LLC Vegetation Management Department HSPAXLP.12/23/2020

Legals**LISTING OF REAL ESTATE & EQUIPMENT TAX ABATEMENTS APPLICABLE FOR 2020 PAY 2021**

In accordance with IC 6-1.1-12.1-8, the County Auditor is required to publish an annual list of deductions as granted for Tax Abatement applications received or acted upon in prior years. 1) The list must contain the names and address of each person approved; 2) Amount of current year deduction; 3) Number of years for which each deduction may be granted; 4) Total amount of deductions for the year.

The following tax abatements (deductions) are approved for 2020 pay 2021 real estate only:

Name & Address

Name & Address	Deduction Amount	Term
Ag Resolutions LLC \$ 15 Ringel Ave, Wabash IN 46992	353,720	10 Years
Combs Kenneth R 1200 Hazel St, Wabash IN 46992	206,100	5 Years
Dorais David P & Kaye A 473 South Miami St, Wabash IN 46992	66,990	10 Years
Doran Kathryn E Living Trust 11 Cherokee Court, Wabash IN 46992	146,100	5 Years
Grizzle Tammy 1724 Glenn Ave, Wabash IN 46992	117,300	5 Years
JTK Properties (Precision Medical) 400 Beckley St, North Manchester IN 46962	662,300	10 Years
Jacobs Richard H & Diana M 31 Studio Dr, Wabash, IN 46992	156,320	5 Years
Konkle Douglas R & Linda A 25 Cherokee Court, Wabash IN 46992	166,600	5 Years
LMBW Properties LLC 1700 Alber St, Wabash IN 46992	1,654,900	10 Years
M&R Brothers 1363 Garfield St, Wabash IN 46992	794,600	10 Years
Meagher Robert D & Patricia L 25 Studio Drive, Wabash IN 46992	30,980	5 Years
MPS Egg (Midwest Poultry) 800 Wabash Rd, North Manchester IN 46962	1,143,000	10 Years
Midwest Poultry Services 5780 E 100 N, North Manchester IN 46962	2,901,500	10 Years
Nguyen Jimmy & Kim O Vu & Nha N Tran 19 Gardens Drive, Wabash IN 46992	94,920	5 Years
OJI Intertech 906 W Hanley Rd, North Manchester 46962	1,338,100	10 Years
Paperworks Wabash Inc 455 Factory St, Wabash, IN 46992	1,304,255	10 Years
Rock City LP 25 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	86,100	10 Years
Rock City LP 31 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	66,200	10 Years
Rock City LP 45 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	66,900	10 Years
Rock City LP 25 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	86,100	10 Years
Rock City LP 6,900	10 Years	
Canal St, Wabash IN 46992	94,000	10 Years
Rock City LP 35 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	16,300	10 Years
Rock City LP 92 E Market St, Wabash IN 46992	6,900	10 Years
Rock City LP 63,150	10 Years	
Canal St, Wabash IN 46992	113,460	5 Years
Shepherd Family Real Estate LP 1002 St Rd 114 W, North Manchester IN 46962	1,019,760	10 Years
Simpao Jose 20 Chrysler Ave, Wabash, IN 46992	83,120	5 Years
Steele Joshua L & Kristine R 78 LaSalle Avenue, Wabash IN 46992	91,550	10 Years
Troxel Equipment 834 N St Rd 13, Wabash IN 46992		
Vision Properties LLP 3647 W Old 24, Wabash IN 46992		
Total Real Estate Deductions Approved	\$12,938,125	

The following tax abatements (deductions) are estimated for 2020 pay 2021 on personal property (equipment & machinery):

Name & Address

Name & Address	Deduction	Amount	Term
Advanced Ag Resources 4190 W 50 N, Wabash IN 46992	\$ 39,070	10 Years	
Buehrer Industries 655 Factory St, Wabash IN 46992	115,110	10 Years	
H F Group LLC 1010 N Sycamore St, N Manchester IN 46962	155,800	10 Years	
Hipster Tool & Die Inc 1593 S State Rd 115, Wabash IN 46992	9,160	10 Years	
Jamat Leasing Co Inc 202 Wedcor Ave, Wabash IN 46992	669,660	10 Years	
Lens Source Optical Laboratory 3647 W Old 24, Wabash IN 46992	277,760	10 Years	
Lutheran Hospital of Indiana 1700 N Alber St, Wabash IN 46992	40,900	10 Years	
Martin Yale Industries LLC 251 Wedcor Ave, Wabash IN 46992	150,060	10 Years	
Midwest Poultry 5780 E 1100 N, N Manchester IN 46962	8,526,900	10 Years	
OJI Intertech Inc 906 West Hanley Rd, N Manchester IN 46962	717,460	10 Years	
Paperworks Industries Inc 455 Factory St, Wabash IN 46992	2,284,290	10 Years	
Precision Medical Tech 400 Beckley St, N Manchester IN 46962	591,750	10 Years	
Thermafiber LLC 3711 W Mill St Extended, Wabash IN 46992	1,084,900	10 Years	
Total Personal Property Deductions Estimated	\$14,662,820		

**ATTEST: Marcie Shepherd, Auditor
Wabash County**



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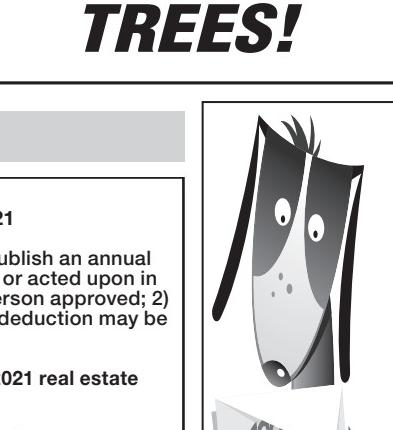
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OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT:

DLZ Indiana, LLC
2211 E. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46615
Contact: John T. Kirk, AIA
Ph: (574) 236-4400
OWNER:
Wabash County Commissioners
1 W. Hill St. Suite 103
Wabash, IN 46992
Ph: (260) 563-0661
PLAN ROOM:
ARC Document Solutions
445 Fernhill Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
www.e-arc.com/in/fortwayne
Ph: (260) 483-8066

BID SECURITY: Each bidder shall accompany their sealed proposal with the proper bid security made payable to the Board of Commissioners of Wabash County, Indiana, as follows:

Any person, firm, or corporation who submits a proposal and has a principal place of business in the State of Indiana MUST submit a BOND in the amount equal to ten percent (10%) of their total bid amount (inclusive of all additive alternates). Any person, firm, or corporation who submits a Bid and DOES NOT have a principal place of business in the State of Indiana MUST file with their bid a CERTIFIED CHECK, BANK DRAFT, CASHIER'S CHECK, or MONEY ORDER issued by a financial institution insured by an agency of the United States, made payable to the Treasurer of Wabash County, Indiana.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish Contract Performance and Payment Bonds for 100% of their contract amount within ten (10) days after award of the contract.

Bonds shall be maintained in accordance with IC 36-1-12-13.1 and 36-1-12-14. Bonds shall be in full force and effect for a period of at least 12 months after the date of final completion of the Contract. Should the contractor's bonding company give notice of cancellation; the contractor will be responsible for securing new bonds prior to termination.

Bids may be held by the Board of Commissioners for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days from the date of bid opening; no Contractor may withdraw their proposal within that time.

The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to waive technicalities or irregularities therein, to delete any bid item or items and to award a contract on the proposal that in their judgment is most advantageous to Wabash County.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 1:00 pm local time. All prospective bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. The Pre-Bid meeting will be held at the project site: Wabash County Highway Department, 800 Manchester Ave., Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Representatives of the Owner and Architect will be present to discuss construction sequence, bidding requirements, Contractor work and storage areas, and requirements for Contractor's personnel.

PUBLISHED

December 23, 2020

December 30, 2020

END OF SECTION 00 11 13

HSPAXLP.12/23,12/30/2020

**Legals****SECTION 00 11 13 - NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

BY THE OWNER Wabash County,

IN Board of Commissioners

FOR Wabash County Highway Department

Highway Improvements

AT Wabash County Highway Department

800 Manchester Avenue

Wabash, Indiana 46992

UNTIL January 18, 2021 at 9:00 am at the

Wabash County Auditor's Office

Bids received after that time will be returned unopened.

BID OPENING Sealed Bids will thereafter be publicly opened and read aloud at the Board of Commissioners Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

All work for this Project will be under a single prime contract with the Owner based on bids received as defined in the Project Manual and Contract Documents.

Scope of Work includes construction of an 887 s.f. office build-out within the northeast corner of the existing Wabash County Highway Department Garage building. Work includes installation of insulated concrete slab and sidewalk, wood framing of office shell and interior partitions, new windows and aluminum entrance doors, gypsum drywall installation with thermal insulation, metal siding and trim, new flooring, suspended ceilings, doors and frames and painting interior and exterior of addition, new electrical power, lighting, data and connection to existing emergency generator power; new HVAC and plumbing systems.

Work also involved the removal of existing industrial steel sash windows and masonry along south side of building and infill with new metal siding, over wood framing and thermal insulation under new metal liner panel with residential style windows and other Work indicated in the Contract Documents.

All bids must be submitted on prescribed State Board of Accounts Form No. 96 together with all the proper forms included in the specifications Section 00 41 13, the entire set of which shall be filed intact as a bid. Bidders must submit their Employer Identification Number on the Bid Form. In the absence of an E.I.N. they must submit their Social Security Number.

Contract Documents are available for purchase from ARC Document Solutions, email fortwayne.orders@e-arc.com; the cost is non-refundable and only complete sets will be issued.

Contract Documents are on file and may be examined at the following locations:

OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT:

DLZ Indiana, LLC

2211 E. Jefferson Blvd.

South Bend, IN 46615

Contact: John T. Kirk, AIA</

PULSE

From page A1

Jan. 27, 2021, at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

**Living Well
in Wabash County
announces holiday
season changes**

Drive-up, grab-and-go senior lunches provided by area Five Agency on Aging and Community Services will be pick up only at Winchester Senior Center until

Monday, Dec. 28. Delivery of frozen meals provided by Transit is suspended and will resume Tuesday, Dec. 29. Wabash County Public Transportation has now closed bus service and will also reopen Monday, Dec. 28, along with pantry service for those without transportation. All programs and services will be closed for Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24 and Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25, at 1 p.m. New Year's Eve, Thursday, Dec. 31, and all-day New Year's Day Friday, Jan. 1. Other than closing for holidays, Transit Dispatch – which can be reached by phone at 260-563-7536 – remains open as will Living Well Winchester Senior Center offices – which may be reached by phone at

**ISP to increase
overtime patrols
during holidays**

Troopers working from the Indiana State Police (ISP) Peru Post will be increasing overtime patrols during the Christmas and New Years' driving period. This is part of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over national enforcement mobilization that runs through Jan. 1, 2021. Officers will be searching for impaired drivers, whether it's alco-

phone at 260-266-6700 or 855-814-0012.

As far as the free site goes, OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

Residents will have to register to schedule an appointment through the Optum/LHI website by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling 888-634-1116.

School figures

The ISDH's school dashboard was updated Monday, Dec. 21 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays.

Statewide, 176 schools reported no cases, 1,885 reported one or more case and 307 have not reported.

In Wabash County, only White's Jr./Sr. High School has reported to the ISDH that they have no cases.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 34 total student positive cases, seven total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five new teacher positive cases, total student positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 14 total student cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five total teacher positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 36 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five new teacher positive cases, fewer than five total student positive cases, eight total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Wabash Middle School reported 10 total student positive cases.

■ Wabash High School (WHS) reported 10 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five total teacher positive cases.

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■ St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five total teacher positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 36 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five new teacher positive cases, fewer than five total student positive cases, eight total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

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